

What is Diagram Labelling in IELTS Listening?

Worksheet

Diagram labelling requires you to listen for specific information and write 1–3 word labels on blank arrows or blanks in a diagram, plan, or map—typically 4–7 labels.

Questions

1. How many labels does a diagram labelling task typically have?

- A) 2–3
- B) 4–7
- C) 10–12
- D) 20+

2. What is the best first step in diagram labelling?

- A) Write answers before listening
- B) Scan the diagram to identify blanks
- C) Listen passively
- D) Read the full question text

3. If the audio says 'control panel,' can you write 'panel'?

- A) Yes, always
- B) No, you must write 'control panel'
- C) Only if the rubric allows
- D) It depends on diagram size

4. What skill does diagram labelling test?

- A) Reading speed
- B) Listening + spatial understanding
- C) Writing accuracy only
- D) Vocabulary memory

5. Diagram: A water system with three blank parts. Audio: 'The pump on the left draws water from the reservoir, flows through a filter in the middle, and exits via the valve at the bottom.'

6. Map: Building layout with blanks. Audio: 'Entrance is on the north side, with the reception desk immediately inside. The café is to the left, east wing for offices.'

7. Scientific diagram: Diagram of a machine with three blank labels. Audio: 'At the top is the motor, connected to the main shaft in the middle, which drives the wheels at the bottom.'

8. Define: What is diagram labelling in IELTS listening?

9. Define: How many labels in a diagram labelling task?

10. Define: What's the main challenge in diagram labelling?

Answer Key

1. B) 4–7 — Diagram labelling tasks usually have 4–7 blank labels, depending on diagram complexity.
2. B) Scan the diagram to identify blanks — Scan the diagram, note blank locations and arrows, and predict what type of labels are needed.
3. B) No, you must write 'control panel' — Only if the rubric allows (check 'no more than 2 words'). 'Control panel' = 2 words; 'panel' alone may be correct if it's the key term.
4. B) Listening + spatial understanding — Diagram labelling tests both listening comprehension (understanding audio) and spatial reasoning (matching audio to diagram parts).
5. 1. Identify left part: 'pump' (audio: 'pump on the left') 2. Identify middle part: 'filter' (audio: 'flows through a filter') 3. Identify bottom part: 'valve' (audio: 'exits via the valve') Answers: pump | filter | valve
6. 1. North side arrow → 'Entrance' or 'entrance' 2. Inside arrow → 'reception desk' (or 'reception') 3. Left arrow → 'café' 4. East arrow → 'offices' (or 'east wing') Answers: entrance | reception | café | offices
7. 1. Top label → 'motor' 2. Middle label → 'shaft' (or 'main shaft') 3. Bottom label → 'wheels' Answers: motor | shaft | wheels
8. A task where you listen to a recording and write 1–3 word labels on blank arrows or blanks in a diagram, plan, or map.
9. Usually 4–7 labels, depending on the diagram size.
10. Matching audio descriptions to visual parts while listening—you must listen, understand, and locate simultaneously.

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